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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: COSTA RICA 2005 END-USE MONITORING REPORT

REF: STATE 222564

1. Per Reftel Embassy San Jose provides the following information regarding end-use monitoring of resources acquired with U.S. Department of State International Narcotics Control (INL) funds.

2. Procedures: Embassy San Jose INL section maintains an inventory of donated property using an Excel spreadsheet. The Embassy's Information Systems Center continues to work on creating a program to transfer the inventory system from the Excel spreadsheet to a new database to facilitate the issuance of reports. Post's INL section has been using its own numbering and label system to keep track of items donated since April 2003 as NEPA (Non-expendable property application) labels can no longer be used for INL purchased items. All donated equipment is also documented with a specific donation document signed by an Embassy representative and the senior official from the recipient GOCR agency. The donation document specifies the equipment being donated and notes the inventory and manufacturer's serial number. Donation documents include the following text: "If the donated items do not meet the user's needs, according to the letter of agreement, then the items may not be reassigned to another Department and the U.S. Embassy Political Section must be notified immediately."

3. The Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Officer, DEA Special Agents, and Office of the Defense Representative periodically visited Costa Rican counternarcotics installations and verified the proper use and continued maintenance of equipment acquired with INL funds. The Drug Control Police (PCD), Narcotics Section, Financial Crimes Unit, and Cybercrimes Unit of the Organization for Judicial Investigations (OIJ), Costa Rican Coast Guard (SNGC), Air Surveillance Section (SVA), and the Costa Rican Institute Against Drugs (ICD) formerly CICAD all used such equipment and training in their operations according to the terms of Letter of Agreement (LOA's) signed with the GOCR. Regular monitoring of INL-supported projects provides an ongoing opportunity for specific end-use monitoring, program evaluation, and identification of additional ways to increase program effectiveness.

4. Resources and status: Embassy San Jose has delivered INL funded commodities and services to GOCR authorities in the categories below:

A. Computer Equipment

Coast Guard (SNGC) Academy: In CY 02, CY 03, and CY 04 Post INL donated a Compaq computer, a Toshiba laptop computer, a Sony notebook Pentium 4 laptop computer, a Sony digital camera, a Sony camcorder, an HP office jet print/copy/scan/fax, and a Riso high-speed reproduction printer in support of the Coast Guard Academy. All of this equipment is located at the SNGC Academy in Golfito and is being used for its intended purpose.

Police Academy: In CY 05, Post INL donated a Toshiba laptop, Epson Printer, and video projector to the Instructor Development Section of the Police Academy.

Precursor Control: In CY 02 Post INL funded the purchase of computers and peripherals consisting of a Jaguar computer with monitor, Microsoft XP and antivirus software, HP desk jet printer, Epson printer, and a Powerlite LCD projector. The computer is supplementing a Dell computer and monitor donated in CY 00. This equipment was originally donated to the Ministry of Health which at the time had responsibility for precursor chemical control. In 2004 the Precursors Chemicals Office was moved from the Health Ministry to the new ICD's headquarters. The Computers and peripherals are now located in this building and continue to be used for their intended purpose.

OIJ Narcotics Section: In CY 01, 02, 03, and 04 Post INL donated: 7 Dell Computers, a Cannon Digital Copier, 4 Jaguar computers, 2 Jaguar high performance Pentium IV computers, an Apple computer with monitor and DVD recorder, 3 HP deskjet printers, 1 laserjet printer, and 2 Sony digital photo printers. The equipment is located at OIJ Narcotics Section offices around the country and is being used to support ongoing counternarcotics operations/initiatives.

CSE Prosecution Unit: In CY 02, Post INL donated 1 Jaguar computer, 3 HP foldable keyboards for HP IPAQ pocket PC, and 1 piece of specialized transmission/reception equipment to the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit of the Prosecutor's Office. A

voltage spike burned out the Jaguar computer in 2004, the rest is being used for its intended purpose.

Narcotics Control Police (PCD): In CY 01, 02, 03 and 04 Post INL donated 3 Jaguar computers, 1 Dell Optiplex computer, 1 Imac Ruby computer, a hard disk, an Apple computer with DVD burner, computer software and licenses, computer 48-port switch, a 4-port analog module for connectivity outside San Jose, 1 HP printer, 1 Applied Magic video editor, and Mapinfo geographic information system (GIS) software. The Jaguar and Apple computers are installed in the PCD's Counternarcotics Information Center (CIPA) in San Jose. The 4-port analog module is stored at the Ministry of Public Security. The Optiplex computer is used to support the growing number of electronic intercept investigations being worked with the Prosecutor's Office. All equipment is being used for its intended purpose.

OIJ K-9 Unit: In CY 01 and 03 Post INL donated 3 Jaguar Pentium III computers, HP deskjet printer, HP scanjet scanner, 3 ups, two 24-switch ports, and 2 optical fiber converters. This equipment is at the OIJ's K-9 Unit in Heredia and is being used for its intended purpose.

ICD Software: Post INL financed the development of administrative software to enhance ICD's operational capabilities. The software has had numerous problems and is currently fulfilling 65% of its intended functions. ICD officials believe the developer will be able to complete the installation of this software in 2006.

Guardian Software: Post INL funded the purchase of computer software in 2003 that enabled ICD to electronically communicate with the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) using the DEA Guardian software in the format required by EPIC. It was installed in PCD and SNGC offices around Costa Rica and is running well.

B. Communications Equipment

Communications Network for SNGC and SVA: In CY 02, Post INL funded the purchase of a new communications network for SNGC and SVA vessels and aircraft. The system is still non-operational. ICE (state-owned telecommunications monopoly) has provided frequencies to the vendor on two separate occasions, however, upon testing it was determined that the frequencies were being used by other parties. The vendor has been slow to provide equipment. Post INL and Ministry of Public Security officials are reviewing legal options against the vendor. Previously we reported that over 50 percent of the funds for this purchase had not been released. Upon closer review of our records, it appears that over 70 percent of the funds for this project had been released as of 2003.

C. Vehicles

Mobile Enforcement Team (MET): In CY 02, 03 and 04 Post INL provided vehicles and equipment for the Ministry of the Presidency's MET. INL funded the purchase of a customized utility truck, utility van, two motorcycles, trailer, a Honda generator, tools, and equipment for the vehicles. The MET conducts counternarcotics operations as well as a number of cross-border training exercises with counterparts in Nicaragua and Panama. Mechanical problems plagued the truck, and particularly its transmission, during 2004. During 2005 the MET deployed less frequently than in 2004. One deployment, however, lasted 10 days and supported the regional "All Inclusive" exercise.

2003 FORD E-150 8-Passenger Van for PCD: In CY 03 Post INL donated a Ford van to support PCD operations throughout the country. The van is being used for its intended purpose.

2003 FORD E-350 15-Passenger van for MPS K-9 UNIT: In CY 03 Post INL donated a Ford Van to support MPS K-9 Unit operations. The van is maintained at the MPS K-9 facility located at the Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose. In CY 04 tools were provided for the van which kept in a locked box inside the van and a single officer is in charge of the inventory. This equipment has provided a significant morale boost to the K-9 unit, allowing the unit to deploy anywhere in the country.

2003 TOYOTA RAV-4s FOR OIJ: In CY 03 Post INL purchased 2 Toyota RAV-4s for donation to the Organization for Judicial Investigations (OIJ) to conduct undercover surveillance operations. The vehicles were formally donated in February, 2004, and are being used for their intended purpose.

2003 FORD F-250 XL Truck for SNGC: In CY 03 Post INL funded 50 percent of the total amount to purchase a Ford F-250 truck which allows the SNGC to transport patrol craft to the different Coast Guard Stations around the country. The SNGC provided 50 percent of the funding for this vehicle with the understanding that it would be subject to the same end use monitoring requirements as any other vehicle purchased with INL funds. It is being used for its intended purpose.

D. Vessels

COASTAL PATROL CRAFT: Before restrictions on such donations came into effect due to the absence of a bilateral Article 98 agreement, the USG provided Costa Rica with three 82-ft decommissioned USCG cutters as a donation of Excess Defense Articles (EDA) in CY 1999 and 2001. Transfer packages for these vessels were supported with Post's INL funds, and included the re-fitting of all electronics and communication systems, training for the SNGC crews, and a full complement of spare parts.

The ship "Juan Santamaria" is stationed in the Atlantic port town of Limon, and the "Juan Rafael Mora" in the Pacific port town of Puntarenas. The "Pancha Carrasco" is stationed in the southern Pacific coast town Golfito. All ships are operational and are being used for their intended purpose.

RIGID HULL INFLATABLE PATROL CRAFT (RHI): six RHI fast patrol craft were transferred to SNGC in CY 00, 01, and 02. Each RHI is equipped with two Honda 130 hp outboard engines and complete rigging, electronics, and safety equipment. None are operational. These locally manufactured vessels have experienced numerous problems with the inflatable section of the hull.

FIBERGLASS FAST BOATS: two 26-foot fiberglass fast boats were donated to the Ministry of Public Security in CY 02. Each fast boat is equipped with two 120 horsepower Mercruiser diesel engines, complete rigging, electronics, and safety equipment.

E. Canine Program

Ministry of Public Security K-9 Unit: In CY 03 Post INL contracted with CSI International for five narcotics detection dogs with a one-year training and certification package. The contract called for the delivery of five narcotics detection dogs and an initial two-week training course, followed by monthly follow-up training, leading to certification. One of the dogs died of chronic ehrlichiosis (transmitted by infected ticks) in June 2004. Another dog needed surgery for coxofemoral dysplasia in 2005. MPS K9 handlers were certified on September 18, 2004. CSI has not followed through on promises to address concerns about the quality of the dogs it provided. Post will not consider CSI for future procurements.

F. Construction Projects

Ministry of Public Security Penas Blancas Border checkpoint: In CY 02 Post INL provided funding for the construction of a counternarcotics inspection station at Penas Blancas, located at a natural chokepoint on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The inspection station modernized this busy border crossing and facilitated cargo inspections that otherwise would not have occurred. In CY 03 Post INL funded the purchase of tools, furniture, and other equipment to outfit the inspection station. Also in CY 03, Post INL secured the donation of a 40-kilowatt Cummins diesel-powered electrical generator from Embassy San Jose for the border inspection station. Construction was completed in November 2003 with the exception of minor modifications. The inspection station was formally donated in April, 2004. Regular operations began in March 2004 and problems arose with the building's structure, drainage and electrical systems, fans, and air conditioners almost immediately. Regular visits by the contractor and better maintenance by the users have addressed some of the problems. However, ongoing drainage issues, combined with cracks in the floors and walls, point to problems with the initial site preparation by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Coast Guard Station in Quepos: Post's INL funds were used to construct a 3000 square foot two-story building with a storage/maintenance facility for two fast boats. It also includes a dormitory for 15 personnel, kitchen, dining facility/conference room, operations center, and storage facilities. Furniture, computer software, fax, a cordless phone and two file cabinets were purchased with INL funds to outfit the station. The coast guard station is located in the Pacific port town of Quepos and has been operational since November 2003. The station and the equipment were formally donated to the SNGC in February 2004.

G. Miscellaneous Equipment

Immigration Directorate: In CY 02 Post INL donated 60 optical passport readers, 5 mobile inspection terminals and funded the development of specialized software for the Directorate of Immigration. The optical passport readers are located at the Juan Santamaria, Daniel Oduber, and Tobias Bolanos international airports, Ports of Puntarenas, Limon and Quepos, and the border crossings at Paso Canoas and Penas Blancas. Three mobile inspection terminals are located in the maritime inspection stations of Limon and Puntarenas and are rotated between ports. Two are maintained at the San Jose office to be deployed randomly throughout the country. The software is performing as expected. One of the mobile passport readers was damaged by a water leak in the ceiling above the reader.

Air Surveillance Section (SVA): In CY 02 and 03, Post INL donated eight GPS navigation systems for SVA aircraft, and two 6-

man aviation life rafts with canopies. The donated GPS navigation systems have been installed in the aircrafts and are functioning properly. The life rafts and maintenance parts are being properly stored, logged, and used for their intended purpose at the SVA's facilities at Base 2, Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose.

PCD: In CY 01 Post INL donated five complete contraband detector kits to the PCD. Two of the kits are currently deployed with PCD units located at the Penas Blancas and Paso Canoas border checkpoints. One is in the possession of DEA for re-calibration and the remaining two are at PCD headquarters in San Jose. This equipment has proven highly effective in detecting cocaine secreted in hidden compartments, the fuel tanks and tires of

SIPDIS tractor-trailers crossing into Costa Rica. An additional kit used for training by Post's Customs Advisor was donated to the PCD in 2004, when the Customs Advisor position was vacated due to lack of funds. All of these detectors are heavily used and getting old. Costly re-calibration of the density meters is required with increasing frequency. One of the density meters (belonging to the kit donated in 2004) was lost during an inspection.

Undercover Surveillance Equipment: In CY 03 and CY 04 Post INL funded the purchase of technical equipment to provide video and audio surveillance in PCD operations. This equipment is highly versatile, essential for officer/agent safety, and has been used for documentation of undercover narcotics purchases, providing valuable documentary evidence that has been used in criminal judicial proceedings. In addition, Post INL donated 2 Panasonic digital camcorders, 7 digital Handycams, 60 remote GE tape recorders, 1 scanner, 1 Sony GVD 1000 video recorder, 2 Panasonic 13" monitors, and five night vision goggles to support undercover operations. All this equipment is well maintained and being used for its intended purpose.

Cameras and other video equipment: In CY 02, 03, and 04, Post INL donated 2 Epson digital cameras, 2 Sony digital camcorders, 3 Sony digital cameras, 2 Panasonic digital camcorders, 10 night vision goggles, 5 binoculars, 6 double cassette decks, 2 micro recorders disguised as cigarette packs, 2 micro recorders disguised as eyeglass cases, 3 Sony standard cassette transcribing machines, 3 Sony micro cassette transcribing machines, and 2 Sony minidvd camcorders to the OIJ Narcotics Section. One of the Sony digital camcorders was stolen in May 2003 and the 6 double cassette decks proved unsuitable for their original purpose. The OIJ Narcotics Section returned them to its Procurement Office instead of the Embassy where they were redistributed among OIJ offices in San Jose and two courts. Otherwise, all this equipment is being used for its intended purpose.

Demand Reduction Videos: In 2003 Post INL funded the purchase of a 3-minute video and five 30-second broadcast advertisements. In 2005 Post funded a new master video and related material to continue with this program.

IMPACT

Embassy San Jose engaged in a \$2.15 million, three-year (2000-2003) SNGC Development Plan with Colombia Supplemental funding (\$1.9 million) and Post's INL funds, following implementation of the bilateral maritime agreement. As a result, the SNGC experienced significant growth, increased its operational capability, and has become a more professional organization. In 2005, increased trafficking of narcotics by maritime routes has apparently continued, with 11 incidents and a total of 3,620 kilos of cocaine seized at sea in 2005. Another 2,548 kilos were seized in the vicinity of a grounded go-fast boat. Traffickers used Costa Rican-flagged fishing boats to smuggle drugs and to provide fuel for other go-fast boats.

Approximately \$600,000 in Post's INL funds in CY 02 and 03 were used in the construction of the Penas Blancas border checkpoint. Located at a natural chokepoint on the Pan-American Highway, this investment has paid off handsomely, with over 1,000 kilos of cocaine seized since it was formally donated in 2004. Penas Blancas represents a permanent deterrent to overland narcotics traffickers.

The numerous computer systems donated to the various GOCR agencies (over \$20,000 in 2005) have increased interagency cooperation by allowing easier communication and information-sharing between agencies. This has led to a more integrated approach to counter-narcotics operations and helped address a critical resource shortage.

Undercover surveillance equipment donated by Post INL has led to the corroboration of intelligence obtained by the OIJ and the DEA Costa Rica Office. The equipment has also greatly enhanced officer safety and resulted in higher conviction rates.

Embassy San Jose POC is Robert Copley, copleyre@state.gov.

